

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 4885**

(Doc. No. 12060ac08.doc)

TO:	The Honorable Leon Howard, Chairman, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	R.J. Stein, Torina Wood, Kenneth Brown		
DATE:	April 16, 2008	SBD:	2008178

AUTHOR:	Representative Walker	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	40-1-410
SUBJECT:	Volunteer Health Care Services Act		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost of Federal and/or Other Funds (See Below)

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 4885 amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Article 3 to Chapter 1 of Title 40 which provides for a sponsoring organization to arrange for the voluntary provision of free health care services by licensed providers. The Bill requires sponsoring organizations to register with the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, pay a registration fee of \$50 and maintain certain records. (The \$50 fee is waived in cases of natural or man-made disasters.) The Bill declares that professional liability insurance must not exclude coverage to a provider who engages in voluntary service and provides that such licensed and registered volunteers are not liable for civil damages for any act or omission unless the act or omission was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

The Department estimates the cost of this new registration program at \$17,000 in the first year and \$7,000 each year thereafter. First-year costs include \$10,000 for designing and setting up the database, designing and printing application and registration documents and on-line registration programming. Recurring costs include office supplies, verification of provider information, legal and investigative expenditures. Based on preliminary surveys, the agency estimates that there would be only 30 organizations that might seek registration. This would result in one-time revenue of \$1,500. The Bill does not specifically authorize the agency to charge a fee on a recurring basis for these entities.

Other Agencies

The Departments of Health & Human Services and Insurance report this Bill will have no impact on the General Fund of the State or on Federal and/or Other funds.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The General Assembly may wish to clarify if it is their intent that the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation can charge a fee on a recurring basis to cover administrative expenses associated with these additional duties.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "H" and a distinct "Bell" at the end.

Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget